

REMARKS

In response to the "Other" in the Advisory Action dated December 12, 2000, the Examiner suggests that applicants fail to show "106". Contrary to the Examiner's observation, reference numeral 106 is clearly shown in Fig. 4 and appears just above the caption "FIG.". Contrary to the Examiner's observation the lead line of reference numeral 116 extends to the sleeve and not to the passage.

With reference to reference numeral "109", applicants in the previous proposed amendment proposed to insert "109" after the term "space" in the belief that it would clarify the description of the manifold. It appears that this amendment caused confusion rather than clarity. As stated in the specification reference numeral 109 is a through bore and the sleeve spaced from the wall of the bore forms an annular passage. This in turns defines a manifold for providing an annular passage for the powder that enter into this space through a pair of inlet ports. The "109" is removed by this amendment in the belief that the description is clear.

In answer to the Examiner's lack of ability to determine patentability in light of the amendment to claim 1, applicants suggest that the Examiner refer to the specification on page 15, lines 3 through 8 which is quoted below for the convenience of the Examiner.

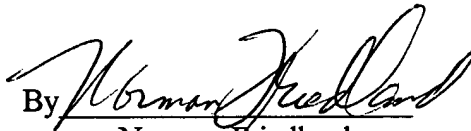
..."The fluid tip element 70 includes a main body 78 which is circular in cross section and is dimensioned so that the diameter is substantially equal to the inner diameter of the tubular portion 46 and several (up to four) segments or secants to the circular cross section are milled or cut at the larger diameter portion 80 to form flats that leave a gap between the fluid tip element 70 and the annular passage 60 (see Fig.3).

It is respectfully submitted that the above quoted description fully describes the claimed

element and is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the previous request for consideration as it is believe that this application is in condition for allowance and the allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In the alternative, the Examiner is requested to enter this amendment and the previous amendments in this application since these amendments place this application in better form for appeal, should this course of action become necessary.

**Respectively submitted,
SCARPA ET AL**

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